

Delaware River Basin Commission

— ANNUAL REPORT 2000 —

Kids... GO Figure
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Come Fly With Me

COVER PHOTO: Two eaglets perch on a nest along the upper Delaware River in New York State, an encouraging sign that this magnificent bird of prey is reclaiming its niche in nature's realm. Hundreds of bald eagles used to winter along the river. By the 1960s, however, a single sighting was rare. Large numbers of the birds were killed indiscriminately prior to federal protection under the Bald Eagle Act of 1940. Loss of habitat and heavy use of pesticides, especially DDT, also took their toll.

The manufacturing of DDT in the United States was banned in 1972. Recent programs by the Delaware River Basin Commission and other agencies and organizations to keep the river clean, the fish abundant, and the habitat undisturbed also have been a big help in the recovery of the eagle population. In New York State, the year 2000 was a record breaker as 145 eagles were counted along the main stem of the upper Delaware River, compared to 77 in 1999.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the National Park Service, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are engaged in ongoing eagle restoration or "hacking" programs. Hopefully, they will result in even greater numbers of this living symbol of America's freedom and spirit.

(Photo by Peter Nye, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)

This report covers calendar year 2000, and in some cases events that carried over into 2001. It was compiled and edited by Christopher Roberts, the commission's public information officer. Material for the report was generated by commission staff and by other partnering agencies and organizations.

Free copies are available by contacting the commission at P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, N.J. 08628. (Phone 609-883-9500, ext. 240; e-mail: croberts@drbc.state.nj.us). The report also will be posted on the commission's web site: www.drbc.net



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